

REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated that the present application contains a plurality of patentably distinct species. More specifically, the Examiner has indicated that the above-identified application contains the following inventions:

1. Species A directed to Figure 4;
2. Species B directed to Figure 5;
3. Species C directed to Figure 6;
4. Species D directed to Figure 7;
5. Species E directed to Figure 8-10;
6. Species F directed to Figure 11, 12 and 14;
7. Species G directed to Figure 11 and 13;
8. Species H directed to Figure 15;
9. Species I directed to Figure 16;
10. Species J directed to Figure 17; and
11. Species K directed to Figure 18.

In reviewing the Examiner's list, applicant notes that the "Brief Description of the Drawings" section contained in the present application contained numerous typographical errors. Applicant has amended the "Brief Description of the Drawings" to more accurately reflect the various embodiments provided for in the present application. It is noted that FIGS. 4-5 disclose the same embodiment. As such, in order to comply with the Examiner's request, applicant hereby elects the species of the present invention shown in FIGS. 4-5 of the present application.

It is also noted that the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-35 are generic. Hence, applicant is somewhat perplexed as to the basis for the Examiner's request of applicant to select a single species. Clearly, independent claims 1 and 23 are generic to all of the embodiments of the present application. In addition, many of the dependent claims are also generic to all of the embodiments disclosed in the present application. For example, claims 2-4, 10 and 24-25 are generic to all embodiments. Further, it can be appreciated that many of the other claims are directed to multiple embodiments, including the embodiment shown in FIGS. 4-5 of the present application.

In view of the forgoing, applicant believes that all of the pending claims, namely, claims 1-35 are in proper form for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited. No fee is believed to be payable with this communication. Thus, should the Examiner consider any other fees to be payable in conjunction with this or any future communication, the director is authorized to charge any fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1170.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it would help expedite the prosecution and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter C. Stomma', is written over a horizontal line.

Peter C. Stomma,
Reg. No. 36,020

Dated: 4/4/00

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